

local communities, our constituents, and our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Mr. HECK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a correction in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Earlier today, this body took a vote series with twelve votes in a row, ten of which were amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act, H.R. 2810.

During that vote series, we considered Amendment Number Six, offered by my friend and colleague, Mr. NADLER of New York. That amendment would have struck Section 1022 of the bill, which prohibits the use of funds for transfer or release of individuals detained at Guantanamo Bay.

For too many of our friends and allies around the world, the Guantanamo Bay facility has become a symbol of human rights abuses, and our enemies use it to rally opposition to the United States. I have consistently voted to close Guantanamo Bay.

Unfortunately, my recorded vote was opposed to this Amendment. I would like to correct the record of my vote in favor of Amendment Six and opposed to detaining individuals at Guantanamo Bay.

REMEMBERING REVEREND KATIE R. FOSTER

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of Rev. Katie R. Foster Anthony, a proud representative of the values, ambition, and resilience of the people of South Mississippi. Throughout her illustrious life she graciously and selflessly served others, setting an example of how to passionately pursue Jesus Christ and spread His love to all. The community is a much better place because of her tireless efforts, and her legacy will live on.

As one of the first Ordained Women Ministers in the United Methodist Church, she broke through gender barriers and continuously deepened her faith, spreading her wisdom to many people, including her congregation at Solid Rock Church of God in Christ. Pastor Katie shared the Gospel outside of her church as well, through her roles as host of the Common Sense Television Show, radio host minister on 94.5 FM WJZD, a prison minister, an ordained minister of the Haven Chapel United Methodist Church, and a member of "The Way Christian Ministries." Her teachings will live on and continue to inspire others.

Pastor Katie has always been active in her Mississippi community. She was a 4H lifetime member, a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the founder of Foster Enterprises "fast tax" income tax service, a grocery store business owner, a social worker, a school teacher, and overall an outstanding community member. She had an insatiable thirst for

knowledge, starting her education at Nichols High School in Biloxi, and continuing on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees from many renowned colleges including Wiley College, Southern University, and Emory University.

I have been inspired by Pastor Katie and know her incredible life will motivate others to unselfishly serve their community. She believed anyone can make a powerful difference no matter where they are or what situation they may find themselves in, and this attitude is one I wholeheartedly commend. The people of South Mississippi can learn so much about what it means to be a good community member, American, and all around person by looking at the example Pastor Katie set. She will be deeply missed by her congregation, her loving family, and the multitude of people she impacted.

Words seem inadequate during a time of loss such as this, but I pray that all those that knew and loved Pastor Katie find comfort in the arms of family, friends, and community members on whom she left a tremendous impression. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone during this difficult time, and I will always remember Pastor Katie as the amazing woman and trailblazer that she was. On behalf of the people of Mississippi, I recognize her life and service.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman THORNBERRY and Ranking Member SMITH for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their devotion to the men and women of the Armed Forces who risk their lives to keep our nation safe.

Mr. Chair, thank you for the opportunity to explain the Jackson Lee Amendment to H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2018, which authorizes \$2.5 million in increased funding to combat and treat Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Had it been made in order, this Jackson Lee amendment would have provided additional funding to be used toward outreach activities targeting hard to reach veterans; especially those who are homeless or reside in underserved urban and rural areas.

Mr. Chair, along with traumatic brain injury, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is the signature wound suffered by the brave men and women who fought or are fighting in Afghanistan, Iraq, and far off lands to defend the values and freedom we hold dear.

For those of us whose daily existence is not lived in harm's way, it is difficult to imagine the horrific images seen by American servicemen

and women deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other theaters of war.

In an instant a suicide bomber, an IED, or an insurgent can obliterate your best friend and right in front of your face.

Yet, you are trained and expected to continue on with the mission, and you do, even though you may not even have reached your 20th birthday.

But there always comes a reckoning.

And it usually comes after the stress and trauma of battle is over and you are alone with your thoughts and memories.

And the horror of those desperate and dangerous encounters with the enemy and your own mortality come flooding back.

PTSD was first brought to public attention in relation to war veterans, but it can result from a variety of traumatic incidents, such as torture, being kidnapped or held captive, bombings, or natural disasters such as floods or earthquakes.

People with PTSD may startle easily, become emotionally numb (especially in relation to people with whom they used to be close), lose interest in things they used to enjoy, have trouble feeling affectionate, be irritable, become more aggressive, or even become violent.

They avoid situations that remind them of the original incident, and anniversaries of the incident are often very difficult.

Most people with PTSD repeatedly relive the trauma, called flashbacks, in their thoughts during the day and in nightmares when they sleep.

A person having a flashback may lose touch with reality and believe that the traumatic incident is happening all over again.

Mr. Chair, the fact of the matter is that most veterans with PTSD also have other psychiatric disorders, which are a consequence of PTSD.

These veterans have co-occurring disorders, which include depression, alcohol and/or drug abuse problems, panic, and/or other anxiety disorders.

The Jackson Lee Amendment recognizes that these soldiers are first and foremost, human and that they carry their experiences with them.

Ask a veteran of Vietnam, Iraq, or Afghanistan about the frequency of nightmares they experience, and one will realize that serving in the Armed Forces leaves a lasting impression, whether good or bad.

The Jackson Lee Amendment would have helped ensure that "no soldier is left behind" by addressing the urgent need for more outreach toward hard to reach veterans suffering from PTSD, especially those who are homeless or reside in underserved urban and rural areas of our country.

Mr. Chair, I also want to speak in support of the amendment to H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2018, offered by Judiciary Committee Ranking Member CONYERS, and supported by Congresswoman BARBARA LEE of California, Congressman WALTER JONES of North Carolina, myself, and many other colleagues but not made in order by the Rules Committee.

The Conyers Amendment is simple and straightforward, stating:

"Nothing in this Act shall be construed as authorizing the use of force against North Korea."

Interviewed by Reuters in the Oval Office on April 27, 2017, the President stated: